



## ALABAMA FIELD OFFICE NEWSLETTER

Region IV  
Medical Forum Building  
950 22nd Street North Suite 900  
Birmingham, AL 35203  
Phone: (205) 731-2617



#HUDCARESACT

LEARN MORE AT [HUD.GOV/ALABAMA](https://www.hud.gov/alabama)

[HUD.GOV/CORONAVIRUS](https://www.hud.gov/coronavirus)

### From the Desk of the FOD



#### Kenneth Free, Field Office Director (FOD)

In this month's newsletter I would like to begin by stressing that the Alabama State HUD Office is open for business and fully engaged in serving our grantees and program participants. If you need assistance from us either call us at 205-731-2617 or email us at [AL\\_Webmanager@hud.gov](mailto:AL_Webmanager@hud.gov), and we will do all we can to get you a timely response.

This month's newsletter our focus is on establishing with our stakeholders the importance of working to commit to achieving Section 3 employment and contracting goals within our State. Under the Section 3 Program HUD asks those grantees receiving HUD funding to commit to efforts to train and employ residents of HUD subsidized properties, in projects that are funded by HUD. Secretary Carson established as a goal when he accepted the position of HUD Secretary to have the Agency move beyond the goal of just providing affordable housing towards a commitment to strive to create paths for all of our assisted families to move towards self-sufficiency. In support of this goal our Field Office invited HUD staff and grantees to participate in virtual Section 3 training on August 20. Most of our staff and many of our stakeholders participated in this training as part of our effort to spearhead this initiative in the State of Alabama. I would like to encourage the Mayors, City Council Persons, and Public Housing Authority Directors who receive this newsletter to reach out to each other locally to discuss strategies to create

Section 3 employment opportunities in your communities. <https://www.hud.gov/section3>

One of the activities that also supports Secretary Carson's vision of empowering residents and helping them develop the skills for self-sufficiency is the Envision Center Program. This program encourages Housing Authorities to develop a curriculum of services to be provided to residents of Public Housing communities that will help them develop the skills to become self-sufficient. The Campus of Hope of the Housing Authority of the Birmingham District was the first Alabama Program officially recognized as a HUD Envisioned Center, and Secretary Carson delivered news of that recognition personally when he attended the grand opening services for the Campus. Campus of Hope offered a wide array of services to HABD residents including, GED services; a program for students to complete their high school education and get an actual High School diploma; health screenings; commercial cooking classes; and so much more. Delivering these services has proven to be challenging during these pandemic times, but Campus of Hope leadership has initiated a process where all services will be offered virtually in the near future. Just another example of the ingenuity we have come to expect from our grantees. We are also expecting to announce the recognition of another Alabama Envision Center in the near future.

### Grant Opportunities

**The FY 2020 Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants NOFA to [www.grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).**

Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants support the implementation of comprehensive

neighborhood revitalization plans that are expected to achieve the following three core goals:

1. **Housing:** Replace distressed public and assisted housing with high-quality mixed-income housing that is well-managed and responsive to the needs of the surrounding neighborhood;
2. **People:** Improve outcomes of households living in the target housing related to employment and income, health, and children's education; and
3. **Neighborhood:** Create the conditions necessary for public and private reinvestment in distressed neighborhoods to offer the kinds of amenities and assets, including safety, good schools, and commercial activity, that are important to families' choices about their community.

With this publication, HUD is making available up to \$182,000,000 for Implementation Grants.

Applications are due on Wednesday, December 16, 2020.

### **HUD Announces \$5 million for FY20 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants!**

Planning Grants are two-year grants of up to \$450,000 each that assist communities with severely distressed public or HUD-assisted housing in developing a successful neighborhood transformation plan and carrying out early action activities to build the support necessary for that plan to be successfully implemented. Applications are due on Monday, September 14, 2020.

For more info. visit [hud.gov/cn](http://hud.gov/cn), [grants.gov](http://grants.gov), or submit questions to [ChoiceNeighborhoods@hud.gov](mailto:ChoiceNeighborhoods@hud.gov).

## **FHA**

### **FHA's Foreclosure and Eviction Moratorium Extended Through December 31, 2020:**

On August 27, 2020, the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) published [Mortgage Letter \(ML\) 2020-27](#), Extension of Foreclosure and Eviction

Moratorium in Connection with the Presidentially-Declared COVID-19 National Emergency. This ML announces a third extension of the foreclosure and eviction moratorium through December 31, 2020.

This moratorium extension is effective immediately upon the expiration of the existing moratorium announced in [ML 2020-19](#). This guidance is applicable to all FHA Title II single family forward mortgage and Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM) reverse mortgage programs, except for those secured by vacant and/or abandoned properties.

Read the entire [Press Release](#). Please visit [hud.gov/press](http://hud.gov/press) for the latest HUD press releases and housing news.

## **COVID-19 / CPD**

### **Secretary Carson Approves New Uses for Communities' Coronavirus Relief Funds** *New flexibilities allow communities to effectively use over 3 billion in HUD relief funds*

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Ben Carson announced new flexibilities states and local government can use in order to best utilize Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV) funds appropriated by the CARES Act, as well as other federal funds, to support their communities in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak. To date, HUD has provided over \$3 billion in CDBG-CV funds nationwide to help communities combat coronavirus and alleviate economic hardship. HUD is also providing

flexibility to communities who want to utilize their existing, non-CARES Act federal dollars to support their coronavirus recovery efforts.

Key new flexibilities available to communities in administering their CDBG-CV funds include:

- States may carry out activities directly or pass funds through to local governments in both rural and urban areas throughout the state. (Some funds must be set aside for rural areas.)
- Economic development rules updated and streamlined so grantees can move quickly to help small businesses, and
- Emergency payments to a provider or landlord on behalf of a family or individual, usually limited to 90 days, may extend for up to six months.

The Notice also contains waivers and alternative requirements to expedite submissions across multiple grant programs so states and local governments can quickly realign existing resources to respond to COVID-19.

[https://www.hud.gov/press/press\\_releases\\_media\\_advisories/HUD\\_No\\_20\\_124](https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_20_124)

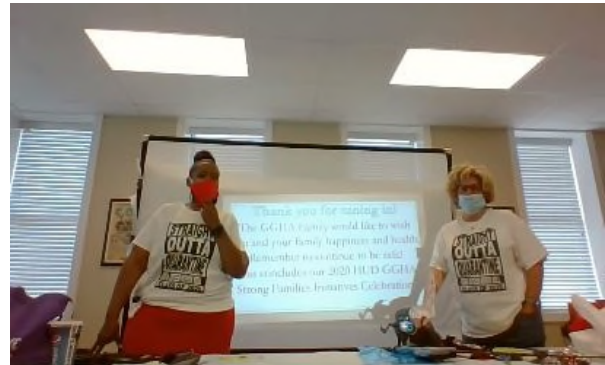
## PIH

**Greater Gadsden Housing Authority (GGHA)** hosted a virtual HUD/GGHA Family Initiatives Celebration, and it was amazing!! Towanna Wilson, GGHA Resident Coordinator and Carol Carmack, GGHA Resident Initiatives Assistant hosted and entertained all the online viewers.

Throughout the 2-hour event the ladies showed several videos, one of was how to make a face mask from a sock; DIY hand sanitizer; and their very own cooking video, “Cooking with Carol & Towanna”, on how to make a meal that is kid-friendly for \$5 or less! They also provided resource information from various agencies around the

county and gave away numerous door prizes. Resource agencies and companies sent information and provided pamphlets and bags to be issued to the participants.

[https://www.facebook.com/GadsdenHousing/videos/2020-hudggha-family-initiatives-celebration/2700402996866316/?so=permalink&rv=related\\_videos](https://www.facebook.com/GadsdenHousing/videos/2020-hudggha-family-initiatives-celebration/2700402996866316/?so=permalink&rv=related_videos)



**Huntsville Housing Authority covering childcare expenses for residents (WHNT-TV 19 Huntsville, AL) [WHNT-TV 19 Huntsville](#)** [8/20/2020 10:09 PM, Ethan Fitzgerald, 38K, AL]

The CARES Act allowed HUD to designate money to cover COVID-19 related impacts for public housing authorities across the country. The Huntsville Housing Authority is using some of that money to help parents who have kids learning remotely. For public housing residents who have a job, they can simply call their property manager to get the process started. The Huntsville Housing Authority can cover childcare expenses likely through October and potentially beyond depending on how school districts in Madison County remain remote. Applicants must prove they are working and simply have to show they sign their children into a care provider. "I know that our residents and everyone, in general, is going through difficult times. So we are very excited we have these funds available because typically this isn't a service we can pay for our residents," said Quisha Riche, the Deputy Executive Director of the Huntsville Housing Authority.

## Updates and Resources

### Notices & Memorandums

- **PIH Notice 2020-13: COVID-19 Statutory and Regulatory Waivers**
  - *This notice supersedes PIH 2020-05 Notice with revisions.*
- **Waiver revisions and technical corrections for PIH Notice 2020-13**
- **CARES Act Waivers and Alternative Requirements for Public Housing & HCVs**
- **PIH Notice 2020-18: CARES Act – HCV Program Administrative Fees**
  - *This notice supersedes PIH Notice 2020-08.*
- **PIH Notice 2020-07: FY20 Operating Fund Appropriations Supplemental Guidance**
- **CARES Act Flexibilities for CDBG Funds Used to Support COVID-19 Response**

If you are in need of assistance you can call us at 205-731-2617, or email us at [AL\\_Webmanager@hud.gov](mailto:AL_Webmanager@hud.gov).

If you would like to stay informed of the latest happenings, follow us on Twitter [@HUDSoutheast](https://twitter.com/HUDSoutheast)  
[Twitter](#)